REMARKS

Claims 10, 17-20, and 22-24 are pending. Claims 10 and 17-20 have been amended for

clarification purposes, and the specification have been amended to overcome the objections

thereto.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

In the Office Action, the Examiner issued a rejection under 35 USC § 112, first

paragraph, on grounds that the specification contains unclear passages including the ones noted

on pages 6 and 13. The specification has been amended to clarify the passages on pages 6 and

13. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments are sufficient to overcome the § 112

rejection.

Claims 10 and 19 were found to be objectionable for containing improper grammar.

Claims 10 and 19 have been amended to overcome these objections.

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, for lacking antecedent

basis for the phrase "direct information." Claim 17 has been amended to provide an antecedent

basis for this term.

Claims 10 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) for being obvious in view of a

Sumita-Cannon combination. This rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 10 recites broadly embodiments of the invention disclosed in the specification. In

particular, claim 10 recites "providing . . . a table including identifier codes and expressions for

object data included in content description information of multimedia data, in which each

expression has a corresponding identifier <u>code</u> and in which different expressions relating to the

same object data are assigned the same identifier <u>code</u>." (Emphasis added). The cited references

do not teach or suggest these features.

The Sumita patent discloses a device which filters compares information indicative of the

content of a television program to a user profile, and then selects a program to record based on a

result of the comparison. As acknowledged by the Examiner, the Sumita patent does not teach

or suggest a server which transmits a table to a client, where the table includes identifiers and

expressions as recited in claim 10.

To make up for these deficiencies, the Cannon patent was cited. The Cannon patent

discloses a system which searches for greeting cards whose images are stored in a database. As

disclosed at column 6, each card image is assigned a keyword which describes the contents of a

card. For example, a Christmas card may be assigned the keyword, "Christmas." A thesaurus

unit is then provided to help a user find this card. The thesaurus unit provides synonyms of the

word "Christmas" (or other keyword) to help the user find the Christmas card.

Unlike claim 10, the Cannon patent does not teach or suggest providing a table including

<u>identifier codes</u> and that <u>different expressions relating to the same object data are assigned the</u>

<u>same identifier code</u>. (See, for example, Figures 5-7 of Applicants' drawings for support, where,

for example, N_1, represents various expressions of the same actor's name.) Instead, Cannon

presents content using keywords, none of which constitute "identifier codes" where "different

expressions relating to the same object data are assigned a same identifier code." As explained in

the specification, the use of codes over keywords is preferable because it allows for much quicker access to relevant results of a search and are not encumbered with word-based or language problems.

Claim 10 further recites "comparing identifier codes of the provided table with a stored preference information table including identifier codes and expressions for object data in which each expression has a corresponding identifier code and in which different expressions relating to the same object data are assigned the same identifier code." (Emphasis added). The Cannon patent does not teach or suggest these features.

Finally, claim 10 recites updating the preference information table of the client "if the identifier codes of the tables are different." The Cannon patent does not teach or suggest these features.

Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing differences are sufficient to render claim 10 and its dependent claims non-obvious and thus patentable over a Sumita-Cannon combination.

Claim 17 recites "providing an object data expression information table from a content description information constructor in a server to a preference information constructor in a client when the preference information constructor and the content description information constructor do not own jointly an object data expression information table of the same content." (Emphasis added). The Sumita and Cannon patent does not teach or suggest these features.

The Sumita patent discloses comparing program content information with a user

preference file, but Sumita does not disclose providing an object data expression information table in a server to a preference information constructor in a client, when an object data expression information table of the same content is not in a preference information constructor and a content description information constructor.

The Cannon patent discloses the use of a thesaurus file to search for greeting card images in a database. The thesaurus file (which the Examiner has compared to the table of the claimed invention) is not provided from a client to a server as required in claim 17.

Moreover, the Sumita and Cannon patents do not teach or suggest the comparing and updating steps recited in claim 17.

Claim 18 recites that the preference information table is updated by "generating direct information including at least one of an actor's name, a director's name, or a producer's name, or a table including <u>identifier codes each corresponding to object data having various expressions for the same content</u> . . ." These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

Claim 19 recites that the updating process includes "generating a table including <u>identifier codes</u> for expressing at least one object data of the same content and representative expressions by the <u>identifier codes</u> by the content description information constructor," and "updating the preference information table <u>to map a same identifier code to different expressions of object data having a same content based on the table provided from the content description information constructor</u>." (Emphasis added). These features are not taught or suggested by the

cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

Claim 20 recites "transforming the direct information of the lookup table into <u>identifier</u> <u>codes</u> by comparing of content information of the preference information constructor and the content description information constructor," and "updating a preference information table by the preference information constructor after comparing <u>identifier codes</u> stored in the preference information table and the transformed <u>identifier codes</u>." Claim 20 further recites "wherein the preference information table includes the <u>identifier codes</u> and expressions for object data in which each expression has a corresponding identifier <u>code</u> and in which different expressions relating to the same object data are assigned the same identifier <u>code</u>." These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

New claims 22-24 have been added to the application.

Claim 22 recites that "the expressions in the tables are representative of content in one or more corresponding broadcast programs to be viewed on a television or other display device." In rejecting base claim 20, the Examiner relied on the Cannon patent. However, this patent covers searching of greeting card images in a data base. This patent does not disclose expressions in a table which are representative of content in one or more corresponding broadcast programs to be viewed on a television or other display device.
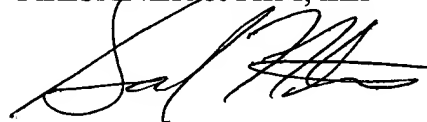
Claims 23 and 24 are similarly distinguishable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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